

vol. 6, no. 14
Aug. 22, 1953

Austria Russia

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

Published by the Information Department of
THE AUSTRIAN CONSULATE GENERAL

MONTANA STATE
UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY
SEP 4 - 1953
RECEIVED

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 5-4120

VOL. VI, NO. 14

August 22, 1953

AUSTRIA STRIVING FOR CONCLUSION OF STATE TREATY - SOVIET UNION SENDS NOTES TO VIENNA AND WESTERN POWERS - MAIN COMMITTEE OF AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT CALLED INTO SPECIAL SESSION FOR AUGUST 19. On June 12, 1953, the Austrian Government sent a memorandum to the Government of the Soviet Union in which it characterized as feasible the diplomatic negotiations initiated by Russia some time ago with a view to concluding an Austrian State Treaty. The Austrian note re-emphasized Austria's desire for a prompt conclusion of the treaty.

At the end of July the Soviet Union sent out three notes concerning Austria. In one, which was handed the Austrian Ambassador in Moscow on July 29, the Soviet Government requested the Austrian Government to clarify its position with regard to the short treaty form, namely whether Austria insisted that negotiations be held on the basis of the abbreviated treaty submitted by the Western Powers or whether the Austrian Government agreed to consider the old treaty draft of the year 1947 as the sole basis for further talks.

In a second note dated July 30 the Soviet Government addressed itself to the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and France, demanding that the Western Powers withdraw the short treaty for Austria and resume negotiations on the basis of the old treaty draft.

Likewise on July 30 the Soviet Ambassador in Vienna, Ivan I. Ilyichov, handed the Austrian Government a note in which the Soviet Government announced its intention to waive payment of Austrian occupation costs as of August 1, 1953, and begin to pay the cost of maintaining its troops in Austria itself.

Immediately after the two Russian notes to Austria were received, the Austrian Cabinet met in special session under the chairmanship of Chancellor Julius Raab to consult on further moves. The ministers took note of the fact that the Austrian memorandum of June 12 to the Soviet Union had been unanimously approved by the Cabinet on June 9 and had also been communicated to the Ambassadors of the three Western Powers in Austria. The Cabinet then voted to submit the Russian inquiry to the steering committee of the Austrian Parliament. As a result, the steering committee was called into special session scheduled for August 19 by Dr. Felix Hurdes, President of the Nationalrat, to decide on the answer to be sent to Moscow.

Austria Will Not Miss a Second to Achieve Liberation - Raab

In a speech delivered in Dornbirn, Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab discussed the latest Russian notes and said
(Cont'd on page 2)

WEST WILL NOT INTRODUCE SHORT TREATY FORM.

On August 17, 1953, the Western Powers replied to the Soviet note of July 30 in which the Soviet Government indicated that it was prepared to resume discussion of a treaty for Austria if the Short Treaty proposed by the West were withdrawn from consideration. The Western Powers proposed in their new note to Moscow that the treaty deputies convene in London on August 30.

The United States note said, in part: "On the understanding that there will be no extraneous issues raised and that the Soviet Government is prepared to conclude a treaty for Austria which will insure Austria's political and economic independence, the United States Government undertakes not to introduce for consideration the abbreviated treaty. In making this proposal the United States Government assumes that the Soviet Government will be prepared in fact promptly to conclude an Austrian treaty."

The West also rejects the last Soviet proposal to tie the Austrian treaty to the German question as suggested by the Soviet Government in a note to the Western Powers on August 4, 1953.

MAIL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CENSORSHIP LIFTED IN AUSTRIA.

On August 11 the Soviet occupation authorities finally agreed to lift the mail, telegraph and telephone censorship imposed in their zone since 1945. The move satisfies a long-standing demand by the Austrian Government and the Western Powers. On Friday, August 14, the Allied Council, in its 200th meeting, consequently agreed to dissolve the quadripartite censorship bureau in Vienna. This decision of the Allied Powers thus brings to an end all censorship in Austria, which has heretofore cost the Austrian taxpayer some 15 million schillings annually. However, Soviet Ambassador Ivan I. Ilyichov, again refused to permit Austria to establish a civil aviation system.

U. S. DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER LEAVES VIENNA.

Walter Dowling, heretofore U.S. Deputy High Commissioner in Austria, has been appointed Deputy High Commissioner in Germany replacing Mr. Samuel Reber. Mr. Dowling, who entered the American diplomatic service in 1931, arrived in Vienna in May 1949 as Counselor of the U.S. Legation. In October of the following year he was appointed Deputy High Commissioner. Since then Mr. Dowling has often represented the United States in the Allied Council for Austria. Since 1951, he has also acted as the American representative at the Austrian Treaty talks.

Austria strives for State Treaty (cont'd from p. 1)

that Austria was resolved not to miss a second and thereby possibly miss a chance to effect the country's liberation. "If we have patiently submitted to the conditions of the past 8 years and put up with many a word of counsel," Chancellor Raab stated, "I should like to point out that in this period of very trying conditions the Austrian people - consolidated in their political life and firmly united by a large and absolutely clear-cut majority government as no other - have proved to the world that they are more immune to possible internal disintegration than many a nation in Europe. That is why we can already now take for granted the assurance that, in the future too, Austria will live up to its great cultural importance and that the West can confidently look to us, for Austria will continue to fulfill its mission." Chancellor Raab then emphasized that the text of the Soviet notes required careful study before a clear reply could be given. This would be the responsibility not only of the Federal Government but also of the Austrian Parliament.

Vice Chancellor Adolf Schaerf commented as follows on the Soviet note: "There is no doubt that the primary interest of all Austrians is to obtain a State Treaty and, as a consequence thereof, full sovereignty. Individual considerations, especially whether discussions are to be based on the abbreviated treaty or on the old treaty draft, are merely of secondary importance."

Complete Freedom is Necessary - Helmer

Oskar Helmer, Austrian Minister of the Interior, declared that Russia's two statements on Austria were of significance not only for Austria but also internationally. "If this time our hopes are not disappointed," Minister Helmer said, "and we are not again robbed of a great expectation at the end of new negotiations, then we would have reason to draw a line under the last eight sorrowful years. But we must not fall into the error of being ungrateful. In the course of these past years the Austrian Government has found so much support among the three Western Allies on behalf of the achievement of freedom and independence that we must not forget this aid precisely at the moment when Russia's stubborn attitude toward us is beginning to show signs of loosening up."

The News Service of the Austrian People's party, in its comment on the Soviet notes, said that many problems continue to remain unsolved. In particular, it pointed to the activity of those enterprises which have been requisitioned by the Russians as so-called "German property" (USIA) and which in effect represented an extraterritorial economic entity - a state within a state.

Significance of Special Parliamentary Committee Session Stressed

In connection with the scheduled special session of the steering committee of the Austrian Parliament, all segments of Austrian public opinion discussed the move with considerable interest and many papers editorialized on its significance.

The "Arbeiter-Zeitung," central organ of the Austrian Socialist Party, commented as follows: "We do not yet know the official answer to the Russian note. But the position of

the Austrian Government, of the government parties, of the overwhelming majority of Parliament and of the Austrian people is known, unanimous and clear: Austria wants a State Treaty, the fastest way of arriving at one and the use of every suitable means to bring about renewed and successful treaty talks... The form of the treaty is not important to Austria; of decisive importance are its contents.

In a second editorial, the "Arbeiter-Zeitung" added: "There may be differences between us and the leading representatives of the Austrian People's party as to the interpretation of the tactical situation... It is precisely because of this that we have the right to say to the Western Powers and to the Soviet Union: With regard to the basic issue, we agree. And the basic issue is - Austrian freedom. Every road to this goal is agreeable to us. Enough of all these questions of form. Let's finally start honest negotiations!"

The news service of the Austrian People's party made the following comment on the forthcoming special session of Parliament's steering committee: "On August 19 the Federal Chancellor will submit a comprehensive report on the situation to the committee. He will outline to the legislators the pros and cons of the State Treaty draft in its old form and will give them the opportunity to take a direct hand in the negotiations. This innovation in postwar Austrian politics merits appreciation. The manner chosen by the Federal Chancellor for handling this vital matter to Austria approaches the ideal concepts of a functioning democracy, for it is precisely in this form of government that all law emanates from the people. It would indeed be a serious sin of omission if the freely elected representatives of the people were deprived of the opportunity to have a voice in such a decision. The steering committee of Parliament consists of 24 deputies of the lower house, of which 11 each belong to the Austrian People's and Socialist parties and 2 to the League of Independents. The committee thus represents 95% of the Austrian people."

What Does the Short Treaty Mean?

The so-called short treaty, whose withdrawal the Soviet Union now desires, was worked out by the Western Powers and submitted to Russia some time ago. Its purpose was to facilitate the prompt evacuation of Austria and restoration of her independence by means of a relatively uncomplicated treaty, after the Soviet Union in more than 250 treaty sessions had repeatedly raised new objections to the acceptance of the old treaty draft of 1947. The short treaty contains none of the points on which the Great Powers were hitherto unable to reach agreement. Should the short treaty form be withdrawn, agreement would have to be reached on these few points of the old treaty draft which are still in dispute.

AUSTRIAN CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF SENATOR TAFT. Following the death of Senator Robert A. Taft, the Austrian Embassy in Washington has conveyed expressions of sympathy from the Austrian Government to the American Government and to the Senator's widow and family.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS TO BE CONTINUED IN SEPTEMBER. The first phase of the negotiations between the Austrian Government and representatives of Jewish organizations concerning restitution and compensation have already led to certain positive results. Austrian officials have pointed out that Austrian law in no way discriminates between applicants for restitution regardless of their nationality. It was further stressed that no difference should be made between Austrian citizens and other persons, irrespective of whether they reside in the country or abroad. Such avoidance of discrimination has, in fact, already been written into the laws governing compensation to civil servants as well as those relating to compensation for deprivation of freedom which the Austrian Parliament has passed. The questions that remain to be settled are those concerning unclaimed (including heirless) property taken from the victims of National-Socialism. Because of the beginning of summer vacations, both parties to the negotiations agreed that experts should continue the discussions with a view to reaching a settlement for evaluating unclaimed (heirless) Jewish property confiscated during the Nazi regime. The main talks are scheduled to be resumed in the first half of September.

MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT AND ADLAI STEVENSON VISITED AUSTRIA IN JULY. Adlai E. Stevenson, former Governor of Illinois and candidate of the Democratic party in last year's Presidential elections, arrived in Vienna on July 8 for a short visit as part of his trip around the world. On July 9 Mr. Stevenson was received by Chancellor Julius Raab, Vice Chancellor Adolf Schaerf and Foreign Minister Karl Gruber. Before continuing his tour to Berlin, Mr. Stevenson told newsmen that as an American he was proud of the fact that American tax money was being used in Austria with such great economy. He said that the standard of living in Austria was higher than in any of the other countries he had thus far visited during his trip and that, despite the great difficulties confronting Austria because of the occupation, the reconstruction of the country could well serve as an example to others.

On July 21 Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt arrived in Austria from Yugoslavia. She emphasized to reporters that her visit to Vienna was exclusively of a private nature since she was coming as a tourist and not on a political mission. Mrs. Roosevelt was greeted by Austrian officials who welcomed her to the country.

VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA ON STATE VISIT IN VIENNA. In the course of a two-month tour of Europe, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the Vice President of India, arrived in Vienna on a state visit on July 17. He was received by President Theodor Koerner, Chancellor Julius Raab, Foreign Minister Karl Gruber and Minister of the Interior Oskar Helmer. The Indian Vice President issued a statement in which he said that he regarded Austria and its capital city of Vienna as a center of European culture, especially in the fields of science and music, and that he wanted to see the country's great art treasures during his stay. "My visit to Austria is decidedly one of friendship and I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to express my very best wishes to the Austrian people," Dr. Radhakrishnan said.

AUSTRIAN FEDERATION OF LABOR DELEGATES ATTENDED 3RD ICFTU CONGRESS. The Third World Congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) was held in Stockholm from July 4 to 11. The Austrian Federation of Labor was represented by a delegation composed of, among others, its General Secretary, Deputy Proksch; Secretary Geiger of the Metal and Mine Workers Union; Deputy Freund, President of the Railroad Workers Union; Deputy Fruehwirt, President of the Textile, Garment and Leather Workers Union.

AUSTRIAN UNEMPLOYMENT DROPS BY 8,829. At the end of July, 1953, the number of unemployed in Austria totalled 134,285. This represents a drop of 8,829 as compared to the previous month.

C.I.O. PRESIDENT WALTER REUTHER VISITED VIENNA IN JULY. C.I.O. President Walter Reuther arrived in Vienna on July 30 for a three-day visit at the invitation of the Austrian Federation of Labor. He was received by the Federation's President, Johann Boehm, and numerous other Austrians prominent in political and trade-union circles.

AUSTRIA AND JAPAN RE-ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. The Governments of Austria and Japan recently agreed to resume and strengthen the traditional friendship of their peoples by restoring diplomatic relations between their two countries. These had been broken off during the war.

Diplomatic relations were thus re-established at the end of July by an exchange of notes between the Japanese Minister and the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires in Bern.

"GOOD NEIGHBOR DELEGATION" OF TEXAS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS VISITS AUSTRIA. Early in July President Theodor Koerner of Austria received the members of a delegation of the Federation of Women's Clubs of Texas which spent some time in Vienna and Austria as a "Good Neighbor Delegation."

The delegation came to Austria to enter into direct contact with the organizations entrusted with the distribution of the funds collected by the women of Texas and exclusively earmarked for Austria in 1953. The members of the delegation, led by Mrs. Preston H. Dial, its chairman, were presented to Dr. Koerner by U.S. Minister Walter Dowling. They handed the Austrian President a document granting him honorary membership in the Texas Council for International Relations and informed him that two scholarships had been established by the University of Texas for Austrian students.

"WIENER ZEITUNG" CELEBRATES 250TH ANNIVERSARY. The "Wiener Zeitung," official organ of the Austrian Government, celebrated its 250th anniversary on August 8. The paper was founded on August 8, 1703, and is the only daily in the world to have continued publication to this day. Its founder was a printer, Johann Baptist Schoenwetter, who called his paper "Wienerisches Diarium" (Vienna Diary). Only a century later did the paper become an authoritative mouthpiece of Austrian policy.

AUSTRIA PLANNING EXPRESS HIGHWAY EXPANSION PROGRAM AND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NEAR VIENNA.

On July 21 the Austrian Cabinet resolved to found an "Autobahngesellschaft m.b.H.," which will draw up the plans and do the preliminary work in connection with the expansion of the express highway network from Salzburg to Vienna. The projected superhighway is not only intended to make available many thousands of jobs, but is above all designed to open up the eastern provinces of Austria and the capital city of Vienna to foreign tourist traffic.

Plans are also being made to build an international airport in the vicinity of Vienna, which the government hopes will become a major stopover and transfer point for flights between Western, Southern and Eastern Europe, as well as from and to the Middle East and North Africa. On the recommendation of Karl Waldbrunner, Minister of Communications and Nationalized Industries, the Austrian Government has again requested the Allied Council to authorize the establishment of an Austrian civil airline and to permit Austrian companies to operate Austrian airfields. So far, Austria has been denied any participation in the field of civil aviation, and Austrian airfields are still operated by Allied agencies. The airfield most suitable for expansion into an international airport is the Schwechat Airfield near Vienna, which is now under British management.

Chancellor Julius Raab has announced that before the end of this year Austria would initiate negotiations with the competent Allied authorities for the establishment of the projected airport.

AUSTRIAN POWER LOAN BRINGS 600 MILLION SCHILLINGS.

Subscriptions to the Austrian power loan, the proceeds of which are to be used for the expansion of hydroelectric plants, electrification of the country's rail network and installation of high-voltage lines, have closed with a total of an approximately 600,000,000 schillings. Seventy-four million of this total were subscribed by factory and office workers. On the occasion of the closing of the subscription period, Chancellor Julius Raab expressed the thanks of the Government to the Austrian people, in a speech to the workers of the Austrian Steyr Works. He said that the gratifying response to the loan had been made possible only because the stability and value of the Austrian currency had previously been restored. Chancellor Raab added, however, that the success of the loan reflected the Austrian people's will to rebuild their country and was an example of the political maturity and discipline of a nation fully capable of solving the problems confronting it. Representing Vice Chancellor Adolf Schaerf at the ceremony was Austria's Minister of the Interior, Oskar Helmer.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WORLD BANK STUDY AUSTRIAN HYDROELECTRIC PLANTS. On August 4, 1953, two representatives of the World Bank, Messrs. Andrew Kamarck and John Collier, arrived in Vienna to study in detail the possibility of financing Austria's hydroelectric power expansion program. Their visit is the result of the Austrian Government's request to the World Bank for a loan to complete the Reisseck hydroelectric power station in Carinthia.

The two representatives of the World Bank met with Minister Karl Waldbrunner to discuss a possible World Bank loan for the completion of this station. They declared that the type of loan requested by Austria for the Reisseck plant represented a departure from the type of loans heretofore granted, since only a schilling loan and not one involving foreign exchange was wanted. The reason for this was that the machinery to equip the plant can be manufactured in Austria itself. To date, the World Bank had only financed the foreign exchange requirements on such projects, and the contemplated World Bank loan for the Reisseck station would serve as a model for similar loans to industrial countries.

800,000,000 SCHILLINGS IN COUNTERPART FUNDS RELEASED.

It was officially announced in Vienna on August 4, 1953, that Clarence E. Meyer, Chief of the American Economic Commission in Austria, has formally notified the Austrian Government that the Mutual Security Administration in Washington had authorized the release of an additional 800,000,000 schillings in counterpart funds. Of this total, 153 million have been earmarked for investment in agriculture and forestry, 252 million for hydroelectric power projects, 80 million for the iron and steel industry, 71 million for the paper industry, 44 million for the coal-mining industry, 30 million each for the chemical and iron-and-steel processing industries, 25 million for the non-ferrous metal industry, 20 million for the tourist industry, 19 million for the wood-processing industry and 43 million for various other projects. This latest release is one of several expected during the 1953 calendar year and assures maintenance of the current investment level.

DANUBE POWER STATION AT YBBS-PERSENBEUG TRANSFERRED TO AUSTRIA.

On July 11 Soviet occupation authorities in Austria formally transferred to representatives of the Austrian Government the Ybbs-Persenbeug Power Station on the Danube, which had hitherto been under Russian requisition as so-called "German property." The hydroelectric plant is only half completed but construction work is to be resumed shortly. After the approaches are built, work will immediately begin on the main superstructures, particularly the sluices, dams and powerhouse.

Negotiations for the transfer of the station by the Soviet authorities in Austria began back in 1947, but had to be dropped temporarily because of a series of unacceptable Russian demands on the Austrian Government. Only in May 1953 did the Russian authorities agree to resume negotiations, which were then successfully concluded in July. The agreement contains no provisions which would be contrary to Austrian interests. The cost of completing the Ybbs-Persenbeug Power Station has been estimated at about 1.5 billion schillings. The plant is expected to have an annual capacity of 995 million KWH.

AUSTRIA JOINS EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR NUCLEAR PHYSICS.

Austria has recently been accepted as a member of the European Research Council for Nuclear Physics. Austrian scientists will now have the opportunity to engage in extensive nuclear physics research together with other European colleagues.

AUSTRIAN EXPORTS HIT RECORD LEVEL. In June 1953, Austrian exports achieved a postwar record with an aggregate value of 1,139,000,000 schillings. Since total imports during that month amounted to only four million more, Austria practically balanced her international trade accounts. This very favorable development of Austrian exports is primarily the result of the recent realignment of the schilling rate with the exchange value of the American dollar. The major export items were lumber for building and other industrial purposes; textiles; base metals such as iron, steel and aluminum; paper; cardboard and cellulose; glassware and chemicals. Austria's leading two markets abroad are the Federal German Republic and the United States, in that order.

200,000 VISITORS SEE INNSBRUCK FAIR. It was recently announced that 200,000 Austrian and foreign visitors saw the 21st Export and Sample Fair of Innsbruck. An International Tourist Trade Fair was held in Innsbruck at the same time.

Business activity at the fair was very gratifying to the exhibitors and many new foreign clients were obtained for Austrian products. The meetings and conferences held within the framework of the Tourist Trade Fair are also reported to have been a success.

CARINTHIA FAIR TO BECOME SPECIALIZED LUMBER FAIR. The Second Carinthian Fair, which was held in Klagenfurt from August 6 to 16, 1953, was reported to have been even more of a specialized lumber fair than last year.

Three special exhibits were prepared for the fair to illustrate the activities of Austria's lumber industry. Moreover, the first Austrian forestry and lumber industry congress was held on August 7, likewise in Klagenfurt. A number of specialized lectures were presented. For this year's Carinthian Fair, Yugoslavia authorized a fair quota of 3,450,000 schillings, the German Federal Republic one of 200,000 DM and Italy \$144,000.

346 FOREIGN FIRMS EXHIBITED AT DORBIRN FAIR. A total of 881 companies, including 535 Austrian firms, participated in the 1953 Dornbirn Fair, which was held from July 31 to August 9. Most of the Austrian exhibitors were firms from Vienna and the Vorarlberg. Among the 346 foreign exhibitors the largest group (191 firms) came from Western Germany. Other countries represented were Italy, England, France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Ireland. Fully 70% of the companies were textile firms or represented branches of industry serving textile manufacturers.

TYROL TEXTILE FIRM MAKES SPORTS SCARVES FOR EXPORT. An Innsbruck firm has received a large order from the United States for sports scarves and Dirndl fabrics with Tyrolean and other native Austrian designs. Importers in Sweden and Bermuda have ordered sports scarves of silk and spun rayon, with Stockholm and Bermuda designs, for sale to foreign tourists in those countries. One of the orders filled by the Innsbruck firm consisted of sports scarves with scenes of the Swedish capital for the 700th anniversary celebration of the City of Stockholm.

AUGARTEN PORCELAIN WORKS IN VIENNA TO EXPAND PLANT CAPACITY. The Augarten Porzellan-Fabrik A.G. in Vienna, makers of famous china, hopes to increase its production capacity fivefold as a result of the establishment of a new plant in the Austrian capital. Most of the output to date has consisted of china for decorative purposes, 30% of which was exported. However, only part of the foreign demand could be satisfied.

AUSTRIAN ELECTRIC POWER MACHINERY EXPORTS REFLECT UPWARD TREND. It was recently announced that Austria's heavy power equipment industry has been receiving increasingly larger orders from abroad. In 1952, total exports of heavy power machinery amounted to a value of 343,000,000 schillings, a figure which is expected to be considerably surpassed this year. At the present time, orders are on hand from the United States for eight transformers with an aggregate capacity of approximately 450,000 kilovolt-amperes. Australia has placed an order for the delivery of 50 heavy power machines, and Turkey and Lebanon have each ordered a complete power plant installation. Lower output Diesel generators are being supplied to India.

THIRTY-FOUR DAILIES BEING PUBLISHED IN AUSTRIA. Thirty-four dailies and 150 weeklies are now being published in Austria, according to the recently published "Handbook on the Austrian Press, Advertising and Printing." Total circulation of the daily papers (excluding that of the Communist dailies which have not released their circulation figures) amounts to 1,336,900 copies per day. In addition to the dailies and weeklies, there are also approximately 1,400 periodicals and trade journals, the largest single group of which consists of some 200 religious publications. The federal and local authorities publish 84 periodicals, the various trade groups 82, and the Chambers of Labor and the unions 53. Furthermore, there are 39 publications dealing with fashion, household and women's questions, 41 in the medical and related fields, 37 specializing in education and teaching, and 24 covering the fields of music, the theater, film and radio.



TWO NEW AUSTRIAN COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS ISSUED.

Two new commemorative stamps were recently issued in Austria. One of these (illustrated elsewhere on this page), with a face value of 1 schilling plus 25 groschen, is part of the 1945-47 landscape series and shows a view of the Grotte at Schoenbrunn. It was issued in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Austrian labor movement.

The other, with a face value of likewise 1 schilling plus 25 groschen, was authorized by the Cabinet at the end of July to commemorate this year's "Day of the Postage Stamp." Part of the proceeds from the overcharge will be used to publicize Austrian postage stamps at home and abroad, as well as to promote Austrian philatelic interests.

AUSTRIAN FARM FEDERATION CALLED PROPORTIONATELY LARGEST POLITICAL FARMERS' ORGANIZATION IN EUROPE. The Austrian Special News Service recently carried an interview with Undersecretary of State Ferdinand Graf (People's Party), who is also Director of the "Oesterreichischer Bauernbund" (Austrian Farm Federation).

Undersecretary Graf declared that the Federation, with its 430,000 members, was the most powerful single group within the Austrian People's party. In terms of overall population, it was proportionately the largest farmers' organization in Europe.

Of the seventy-four People's party deputies in Parliament, thirty - or over 40% - belonged to the Austrian Farm Federation. The Socialist party, on the other hand, did not have a single farmers' representative in the Nationalrat. Austrian farmers, Dr. Graf said, had representation in three groups: (1) political-economic representation through the Central Committees; (2) technical-professional representation in the agricultural presidential conference; and (3) the co-operatives. Today Austria has 4261 individual cooperatives with 926,467 members. Of these, 1,757 are Raiffeisen agricultural loan associations (cooperative loan associations which derive their name from Major Raiffeisen, 1818-1888, who founded the first of these agricultural loan associations -Ed.); 197 warehousing cooperatives; 1,274 dairies, Alpine dairy-farms and milk-distribution cooperatives; 63 wine-marketing cooperatives; 131 other marketing cooperatives; 412 cattle-raising and grazing cooperatives; 117 machine, flour mill and sawmill cooperatives; and 89 other cooperatives.

In closing, Undersecretary Graf said: "The main elements of the Austrian Farm Federation's policy are, above all, to unite and unify the farmers of Austria in their own interest as well as in that of the entire nation, to protect their freedom and to screen them from political poisoning (i.e. Communism-Ed.)."

LINZ NITROGEN WORKS START PRODUCTION OF MEANS FOR PLANT PRESERVATION. The Linz Nitrogen Works have recently started production on a number of insecticides for the protection of plants. The preparations, which are basically produced from gamma acids and salts, will be distributed by a newly established firm for the sale of agricultural chemicals.

NIKOLA TESLA CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN VIENNA FROM SEPTEMBER 6 TO 13. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the death of Nikola Tesla, the Austro-Croatian born American inventor who conceived the principle of the rotating magnetic field which paved the way for the introduction of polyphase alternating current in electricity, a Nikola Tesla Congress will be held in Vienna's Technological Museum (Mariahilferstrasse 212, Vienna XIV) from September 6 to 13. The Congress is intended to afford Austrian and foreign electrical engineers an opportunity to exchange research data in the field of electrical engineering, particularly with regard to rotary and three-phase (alternating) current. Visits to Austria's leading industrial plants will be organized on the occasion of the congress. The participation fee is 100 schillings (approximately \$3.85).

AUSTRIAN SCIENTISTS INVENT NOVEL IMMUNIZATION APPARATUS. Austrian refrigeration technicians have invented a novel apparatus for immunizing milk by a physical method which prevents it from curdling; the milk need not be subjected to any chemical processing. The machine, which was given the name "Sektinator," is made of stainless steel and is suitable for the production of "milk champagne" (Sektin), the taste of which can be enhanced by the admixture of any fruit acid without causing the milk to curdle. The apparatus can be installed on any counter and is especially suitable for export to tropical regions. The "Sektinator" won 1st prize at a Vienna industrial exhibition. The manufacturer has already received orders from overseas buyers running into several millions of schillings.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

SALZBURG AND BREGENZ FESTIVALS OPENED BY PRESIDENT KOERNER. On July 26 President Theodor Koerner of Austria formally opened the Salzburg Festival in the Carabinier Hall of the Archbishop's Palace. Among the more than 300 Austrian and foreign music critics and newspapermen who are covering the festival are representatives of English, French and Swiss publications. All the operas and many of the concerts are being broadcast over the facilities of Austrian as well as many foreign radio networks.

The day before, on July 25, President Koerner had opened the Bregenz Festival. The inaugural ceremony took place on the deck of the steamer "Oesterreich" on Lake Constance. Because of the unexpectedly high water level of the lake, the floating stage used for most of the performances had to be rebuilt and raised three feet.

This year, Mozart's "Don Giovanni" is scheduled to be performed for the first time in the Rocky Riding School, with Herbert Graf as a director. Clemens Holzmeister designed the stage scenery. In addition to the Salzburg Festival program originally announced, which includes 73 different events, the Vienna Boys' Choir and the Vienna Philharmonic gave a joint concert on August 4. The world premiere of Gottfried Einem's opera "Der Prozess" (The Trial) took place on August 17.

SUMMER ART ACADEMY AND MOZARTEUM SUMMER ACADEMY OPENED IN SALZBURG. The first Salzburg Summer Academy of Art was opened in the Hohensalzburg Fortress on July 22. The principal aim of the academy, as its Director Oskar Kokoschka puts it, is to teach artists to see.

The International Summer Academy sponsored by the Salzburg Mozarteum in July and August is offering 40 different courses this year. For the first time since its existence, the academy is establishing an international student orchestra of young instrumentalists from France, Italy, Switzerland, Luxemburg, Denmark and Austria, which will be conducted by students taking the conducting course under the direction of Igor Markevitch.

1953 EUROPEAN FORUM AT ALPACH PRESENTS NEW PROGRAM. The general theme of the 9th International University Courses, organized by the Austrian College at Alpach, Tyrol, from August 15 to September 4, is: "What Is Man?" Lectures and discussions will deal with this question from both the scientific and artistic points of view.

The list of lecturers includes a number of eminent scholars and personalities from the fields of politics, culture and science.

The European Forum's program this year also covers such subjects as "Productivity and a Balanced Economy," "Unity in Contemporary Art, Literature and Music," "Man and the Radio," "Modern Music's Struggle for an Audience," and "The Farmer in Present-day Europe."

AUSTRIAN SPA OF TATZMANNSDORF REOPENED TO PUBLIC. The Austrian mineral baths of Tatzmannsdorf in the Burgenland were formally opened to the public by President Theodor Koerner, Minister of Social Welfare Maisel and Minister of Commerce Illig on August 2, 1953. The spa was almost completely destroyed during the war and it took years to rebuild the facilities. In the course of its reconstruction, the watering-place was considerably expanded and equipped with the most modern installations for treatments and medication. The first phase of the reconstruction work cost 16 million schillings, part of which came from ERP counterpart credits. Whereas formerly the spa could accommodate only 300 guests during the summer, it is now open all year round and has room for 2,000. The medicinal springs at Tatzmannsdorf include mud baths and sulphate waters which are indicated for the treatment of women's ailments, heart conditions and diseases of the joints. Balneotherapeutical facilities at Tatzmannsdorf will soon be further expanded to accommodate an even greater number of patients.

PIANIST FRIEDRICH GULDA TO TOUR UNITED STATES.

The young Austrian pianist Friedrich Gulda (see AUSTRIAN INFORMATION bulletin, Vol. VI, No. 8 of April 25, 1953) will tour the United States and South America in 1954. He will perform all the sonatas of Beethoven in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires and New York. This series of sonatas is to be played on eight successive evenings and, for the first time, in the chronological order in which they were written. In October and November of this year, Gulda will present the same program in Vienna and in three Austrian state capitals (Linz, Salzburg and Klagenfurt).

NEW RECTORS APPOINTED AT VIENNA, GRAZ AND INNSBRUCK UNIVERSITIES. It was recently announced that the eminent Viennese surgeon, Dr. Leopold Schoenbauer, has been appointed Rector of the University of Vienna for the 1953-54 academic year. Among his more than 200 publications, those which have recently attracted the greatest attention deal with his research on the heredity of cancer. Prof. Sauer, a leading theologian, has been appointed Rector of the University of Graz and Dr. Josef Andreas Jungmann, S.J., Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology, has been named Rector of the Leopold Franzens University in Innsbruck.

VIENNA ACADEMY CHORUS VISITS UNITED STATES IN 1953-54 TOUR. The list of localities where the Vienna Academy Chorus is scheduled to perform during its 1953-54 tour of the United States was recently made public. The itinerary, as it now stands, is as follows:

September	19 Sheridan, Wy.	16 Monrovia, Calif.
23 Middletown, N.Y.	20 Lewistown, Mont.	17 Van Nuys, Calif.
24 Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	21 Bozeman, Mont.	18 Taft, Calif.
25 Westfield, N. J.	22 Anaconda, Mont.	19 Turlock, Calif.
26 Lansdale, Pa.	23 Shelby-Cut Bank, Mo.	20 Marysville, Calif.
27 Bellefonte, Pa.	24 Havre, Mont.	23 Salt Lake City, Utah
28 Waynesboro, Pa.	26 Kalispell, Mont.	24 Grand Junction, Colo.
29 Elkins, West Va.	27 Kellogg, Idaho	25 Delta, Colo.
30 Butler, Pa.	28 Richland, Wash.	27 Alliance, Neb.
October	29 Sunnyside, Wash.	29 Omaha, Neb.
1 Fairmount, W. Va.	31 Portland, Oregon	30 Beatrice, Neb.
3 Parkersburg, W. Va.	November	December
5 Louisville, Ky.	1 Bellevue, Wash.	1 Lincoln, Neb.
6 Galion, Ohio	2 Puyallup, Wash.	2 Sioux City, Iowa
7 Kalamazoo, Mich.	3 Longview, Wash.	3 Cedar Rapids, Iowa
8 Battle Creek, Mich.	4 Roseburg, Ore.	4 Belvidere, Ill.
9 Elmhurst, Illinois	5 Klamath Falls, Ore.	6 matinee - Chicago, Ill.
11 Wauwatosa, Wisc.	6 Redding, Calif.	6 evening - La Grange, Ill.
12 Decorah, Iowa	8 Burlingame, Calif.	7 Evanston, Ill.
13 New Ulm, Minn.	10 Redwood City, Calif.	8 Bryan, Ohio
14 Spencer, Iowa	11 Pacific Grove, Calif.	9 Ashland, Ohio
15 Columbus, Neb.	12 Santa Maria, Calif.	10 Johnstown, Pa.
17 Casper, Wy.	14 Hollywood, Calif.	13 New York, N. Y.
	15 Fullerton, Calif.	14 Morristown, N. J.

A.P. GUETERSLOH ELECTED DIRECTOR OF VIENNA ACADEMY OF ART. A.P. Guetersloh, the well-known Austrian painter, was recently elected Director of the Vienna Academy of Art, where he teaches painting, for a period of three years (1953-1955). Last January, Guetersloh was awarded a major Austrian State prize.

AUSTRIAN CLIMBER HERMANN BUHL CONQUERS NANGA PARBAT PEAK.

It was reported from Karachi that the Austrian-German Himalaya Expedition, under the direction of the Austrian mountain-climbing expert Peter Aschenbrenner, has scaled the hitherto unconquered peak of Nanga Parbat (26,600 ft.) on July 4, 1953. It was another Austrian, Hermann Buhl, who was the first to reach the top. The Nanga Parbat peak on the Northwest frontier of Kashmir had resisted three previous attempts to scale it (in 1895, 1932 and 1937), each of which resulted in disaster.

AMERICAN TV-FILM COMPLETED IN VIENNA. Early in August, the first American television film wholly in English and entirely produced in Austria was completed in Vienna. It is entitled "The Witness" and was filmed at the Sievering Studio in Vienna under the direction of Ernest Mueller. The leading roles are played by the well-known Austrian actress Aglaja Schmid and the actor Herman Schwedt, who has now returned to Vienna after many years' residence in the United States.

FRANZ VON SUPPE OPERETTAS TO BE FILMED IN COLOR.

At the end of August work will begin on a major film production in color of the operettas of Franz von Suppe. The score of the motion picture will include Suppe's best known melodies and this is expected to enhance its interest abroad. Vienna's famous operetta director Adolf Roth will direct such leading performers as Johannes Heesters, Gretl Schoerg, Walter Müller and other Viennese stage and screen stars. The new production, which is intended to remind the

world that Vienna was the birthplace of the operetta, will introduce new direction techniques and choreographic ideas.

3-D MOVIE THEATERS PLANNED FOR AUSTRIA. It is reported from Austria that by the end of 1953 at least one motion-picture theater in each of the country's nine provinces will have been converted to three-dimensional film projection.

AUSTRIAN PAINTER ERNST HUBER EXHIBITS HIS AMERICAN CANVASSES. The well-known Austrian painter Ernst Huber, who visited the United States in 1952-53 and had many exhibitions in this country, displayed his American paintings in Salzburg from July 10 to 28. The exhibition, called "American Impressions," featured, among others, many pictures of New York and Washington, D.C., as well as scenes from Florida and New Orleans. Art critics and public alike greeted the show with considerable interest.

WALTER TOMAN, NOTED VIENNESE PSYCHOLOGIST, TO LECTURE AT HARVARD. Walter Toman, Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Vienna and a writer on psychology, will be guest professor at Harvard University for one to two years. There he will lecture on clinical psychology and personality problems. Toman has written several scientific works that have been published in Austria and Germany. The best known of these is probably his "Introduction to Modern Psychology."

STATISTICAL DATA ON VIENNA FESTIVAL WEEK RELEASED. More than 335,000 persons attended the main events of the 1953 Vienna Festival Weeks, according to figures recently released. An estimated additional 300,000 attended minor or local events, such as church music performances and district festivities. The seventy-one different performances given at fourteen theaters attracted a total audience of 185,000 and the thirty-two concerts presented in Vienna's two main concert halls were heard by a total audience of 40,000.

PROFESSOR BOEHLER LECTURES IN MEXICO CITY.

Professor Lorenz Boehler, noted physician and Director of the Vienna Emergency Hospital for Accident Cases, recently spent a number of weeks in Mexico at the invitation of the Orthopedic Clinic and Hospital of Mexico City. During his stay, he directed a special course on orthopedics and traumatology, and also gave a series of lectures which were very well attended.

GERAS ABBEY IS 800 YEARS OLD. The Premonstratensian Abbey of Geras, in the northern part of Lower Austria, celebrated the 800th anniversary of its foundation on July 12. Originally a Romanesque basilica which was repeatedly destroyed in the course of the centuries and finally rebuilt in the Baroque style in the 18th century, the Geras Abbey has played an important role in spreading civilization throughout the region of Lower Austria.

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

*Published by the Information Department of
THE AUSTRIAN CONSULATE GENERAL*

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 5-4120



GRAND
STAMP



Librarian
Montana State University
Missoula, Mont.